

Prizes for Potato Growers

The Herald will give \$5 for the tow best bushels grown in this county.

Otsego County has a national reputation for growing fine potatoes, and in order to stimulate the growers to make 1905 a banner year the Herald will give a prize of \$3 for the best bushel of marketable potatoes raised in this county, and \$2 for the second best bushel.

There will be no restrictions whatever, except that every bushel entered for the prizes becomes our property. The potatoes must be grown in this county, and can be entered any time between September 1 and October 1 next, and the prizes will be awarded as soon after the latter date as possible.

The judges will be three ladies, to be selected by the publishers of the Herald, their award to be based on the merits of the entries as best adapted for general family use, particularly as to being good cookers as well as good keepers. A bushel of uniform medium sized potatoes, having cooking and keeping requisites, will stand a better chance of winning.

What We Want

What the people of Otsego County want most earnestly is the development of our agricultural resources. We want the practical young farmers of the southern section of the state and other states to come up here and investigate the opportunities both for home-making and money-making that exist in our fair county. We believe it will be more to their advantage than to go out of the state, ---“out west”—because the laws and customs here, the social life and all the conditions are practically the same as they have been accustomed to; it will hardly be going away from home. They will find here good schools and churches, good transportation facilities and good markets, good soil at low prices, good social conditions and all that goes to make up the desirable conditions for building a home. Above all they will find a hearty welcome here. We want them to come and see us and look around. Come and see what we are doing and you can tell what you can do.

Otsego County From An Agricultural Standpoint

The farmer is the man who feeds us all, and Otsego County is fortunate in that she possesses some of the richest and finest farming lands in the state of Michigan.

Nature did much for Otsego County. It is well timbered and watered, and the natural richness of its soil has been abundantly tested and proved during the last ten or dozen years, so that we can proclaim facts to the world that bear the stamp of truthfulness. Taking the county as a whole, it is making great strides agriculturally, and our hardwood lands when cleared and cultivated, are the equal of any in the state for general productiveness.

What do we successfully raise in this county? Corn, oats, wheat, rye, beans, barley, buckwheat, potatoes, peas, clover, timothy, millet, turnips, beets, onions, rutabagas, squashes, pumpkins, cucumbers, tomatoes; in fact, all classes of vegetables are a big crop, and in point of quality no finer vegetables are raised anywhere in the world.

In the small fruits we raise as fine currants, raspberries, gooseberries, and strawberries as we ever saw grow anywhere.

The finest apples, pears, cherries, and plums are successfully grown here, and astonish all beholders with their excellent flavor and quality.

What we want in the county is more farmers and manufacturing industries, and we are going to have them. We have got a good country, and it is bound to grow and improve. Certainly we would advise young men from the southern part of the state to come to this section rather than to go to the treeless prairies of the west. We believe the opportunities here for home-building are far better than anything the prairie states can offer. And now is the time for them to come while our lands are still low in price.

There is no question as to the farming, fruit-growing, and stock-raising future of the county. It is fully established and demonstrated by actual experience, and this region of which Otsego County forms a part is rapidly changing from a dense forest to a lovely farming country. It is not to be regretted, however, that these lands will have soon lost their forests. In their places come settlements of farms, as fertile and beautiful as may be found. Where hardwood timber has been cut, but very little labor is required to clear the land. The stumps completely decay in five or six years. Then a very slight effort will take them from the ground.

It is the inherent right of all mankind to growl at the weather, but it can safely be put down that Otsego County has a salubrious and healthy climate—extremely so—on that for twelve months in the year affords a very large percentage of bright skies and pleasant days. The advance of spring is not very marked before April, but when it opens it progresses rapidly, and our summers are never too short for the ripening of the crops; while autumn months are the glory of the year. The severity of winter is not felt much until December, and is then

rendered quite mild and enduring by reason of its gradual approach and uniformity; in fact it is very equable, and as a natural result the people of this region are hardy, healthy, and long-lived. Invalids find vigor in our dry and bracing atmosphere, and it enjoys a reputation as a region where the debilitated can regain strength and health from the healing influences of nature. The annual mean temperature at this place is about 47 degrees. To be sure snow falls early—before the heavy frosts occur, and stays late, at an average depth most winters of about two feet. The grass, wheat and other cereals and vegetables are thus protected in this way all winter without freezing, and pasturage is ready for stock as soon as snow vanishes, then too, the ground is fit for the plow of the husbandman. It is no uncommon thing for potatoes to be left in the ground all winter to be dug in the spring.

Land is not cheap, as low as it probably ever will be, and now is the time to come and look us over and make an investment. We can accommodate thousands of those dissatisfied ones in the Eastern, Middle, Southern, and Western states, who will find it greatly to their advantage to come and locate with us. A little capital coupled with plenty of pluck and perseverance is all the passport it requires.

Thrifty, cultured people are settling in our county, yet there is abundance of room for many more who we heartily welcome.

Good frame school houses are beginning to dot the landscape o'er, there being no less than forty in the county.

The county contains seven fine growing villages, Elmira, Vanderbilt, Gaylord, Otsego Lake, Berryville, Waters, and Johannesburg, and the hamlet of Salling; Gaylord, the county seat, being the largest, containing about 2,000 population, and having nearly a hundred wide-awake business firms, electrically lighted, city water works and fire department.

Good village lots sell from \$40 to \$200, and business lots from \$200 to \$800. Good land can be bought for \$8, \$10, \$12, \$15 and \$20 per acre, while some is held as high as \$50. Some of it can be bought on time, and the timber on it in most instances will pay for the clearing.

Good markets are accessible and all crops command fair profitable prices.

The roads throughout the county are in the main good, and much better than in some of the older portions of the country.

Educational and religious matters are well looked into, and persons need not hesitate on that account, as we are fully abreast of more pretentious counties in that respect.

Correspondence is solicited. Write us for further information, or what is better, dust around and scrap up a little money and get aboard the cars and come see us and investigate.

H.C. McKinley